

Union County Selected Economic Indicators

Annual Labor Force Estimates 1998

Annual Total Labor Force: 7,621

Number Unemployed: 319

⁺Unemployment Rate %: 4.2

+Annual unemployment rate rose during the last two quarters of 1998.

Tax Structure

County Property Tax Rate per \$100 value: \$3.01

*Per Capita Income (1996) : \$12,924

*Per-capita income estimate well below state and national averages

Table 1

Health Care Resources

	County	Region	State
Persons per Primary Care Physician	14,987	1,776	1,053
Persons per Nurse Practitioner	7,494	7,429	7,134
Persons per Physician Assistant	0	15,053	18,664
Persons per Registered Nurse	394	178	106
Persons 10-44 per OB/GYN	-	4,509	2,100
Persons per Dentist	7,494	2,414	1,186
Persons per staffed hospital bed	*	491	245
Percent occupancy in community hospitals	*	57.3	57.7
Persons per staffed nursing home bed	189	119	135
Percent occupancy in community nursing homes	96.6	96.4	93.6

Physician shortage area for OB NO

Physician shortage area for Primary Care YES

Note: Manpower data are 1996; shortage areas, 1995; facilities, 1994.

**No hospitals located in county*

Hospitals	Nursing Homes	# Beds
No hospitals in county	Wariota Health Care Center	77

B. County Process—Overview

The Assessment Process

The Tennessee Department of Health has made a strong commitment to strengthening the performance of the public health system in performing those population-based functions that support the overall health of Tennesseans: assessment, assurance, and policy development.

Community Diagnosis is a public-private partnership to define the county's priority health problems and to develop strategies for solving these problems. The Union County Health Council in collaboration with the East Tennessee Regional Health Office conducted an extensive assessment of the status of health in Union County. The health council contains community representatives from various geographic locations, social-economic levels, and ethnic groups. Extensive amounts of both primary and secondary data were collected and reviewed as the first step in the process. Major issues of concern identified by the community were perception and knowledge of health problems, which were important factors in analyzing the data. Council members identified major issues of concern and each issue was ranked according to size, seriousness, and effectiveness of interventions (Table 7).